

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2006

The Honorable Frank Wolf, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Science, State,  
and Commerce  
H-309 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Alan Mollohan  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Science, State, Justice  
Justice and Commerce  
1016 Longworth House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wolf and Ranking Member Mollohan:


As you know on December 17, 2005, the House unanimously approved the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005. Thank you both for your support of reauthorizing VAWA, which includes the authorization of a new program, the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP). The President has subsequently signed VAWA into law, and we write to request your support for implementing the goals of SASP by fully funding this program.

According to the FBI's 2004 Uniform Crime Report, the only violent crime to show any increase from the year before was forcible rape. While rape crisis centers and other organizations have made tremendous progress towards ensuring that sexual assault victims receive the services they need, these agencies' ability to serve the needs of all victims of sexual violence – both female and male, young and old – has historically been hampered by a significant lack of resources. And now, more victims of sexual assault are coming forward for help than ever before.

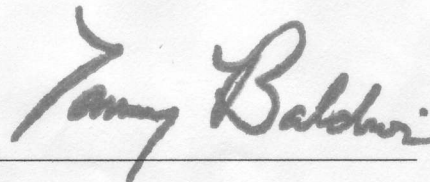
In reauthorizing VAWA last year, Congress recognized that when VAWA was first passed in 1994 and then reauthorized in 2000, it did not include resources specifically designated for direct services for sexual assault victims. Thus, the Sexual Assault Services Program was designed to address this earlier omission. Not only does this program provide funds for service providers, but it also makes available resources to state, territory and tribal sexual assault coalitions who work to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of local programs. Funding is also directed to culturally-specific organizations to better reach and serve victims in communities that have been historically underserved. SASP is the first federal program to provide a direct and dedicated funding stream to rape crisis centers.

We do appreciate the difficult budget situation that faces Congress this year; however, more than 700 women and girls are raped or sexually assaulted each day and 1 in 6 boys is sexually assaulted before the age of 18. Tragically, it appears that this criminal trend is on an increasing trajectory. We sincerely hope that you will support fully funding the Sexual Assault Services Program at \$50 million for FY 2007 so these victims can receive the services and support they need as they navigate the medical, criminal justice and social support systems.

Sincerely,



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Carolyn McCarthy

Debra Wasserman

Robert Wynn

Tim Gull

Joe Mann

John Lewis

Frank Palmer, Jr.

Stan Eise

Paul K. Kide

Henry A. Waxman

Sue Kelly

Mary L. Ackerman

Bill Sack

Rick Larsen

Zee Loff

Ed Case

Tim Murphy

Stephanie Fuchs

Ginny Brown-Waite

Jim McGinn

Michelle M. Mink

Donald M. Payne

William C. McCarthy

Ernie L. Enge

Harold R. Berman

Corine Brown



Carlyle B. Maloy

Major K. Owens

Philo Jackson Lee

James H. Hillman & Son

John Longers Jr.

Hilda L. Solis

Dennis J. Kucinich

Michael M. Hanks

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Rail M. Hiyabara

Allen Green

Chris Van Hollen

Chaff Stupp

Shawn Brown

Bob D. Lush

Earl Blumenauer

Norm Dicks

Barbara Lee

Din Me

Lea Capper

Eric Lipton

Shelley Moore Capito

Henry Cullar

Paul English

Wally

Tom Allen

R-

Betty McCollum

Stephen Tubbs Jones

Danny K. Davis

Michael E. Capra

Neil Abernombrie

Eddie Benice Johnson

Tub & To Bunch

Jose L. Delauro

Nancy Johnson

Charles F. Buss

Jim Matheson

Tommy Simmons

Jim McLeary

Melissa A. Hart

Dana Melke

Julia Carson

Randy Kuhl

John Bradley

Albert R. Wynn

Batman

L. Hold

James L. Wynn

William Wynn

**Signers to the FY07 Sexual Assault Services Program Funding Letter  
(Fitzpatrick/Baldwin)**

- |    |                    |    |                       |
|----|--------------------|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | <i>Fitzpatrick</i> | 41 | Baca                  |
| 2  | Baldwin            | 42 | Ackerman              |
| 3  | Rush               | 43 | <i>Hart</i>           |
| 4  | Brown, Sherrod     | 44 | Wexler                |
| 5  | Payne              | 45 | Corrine Brown         |
| 6  | Maloney, Carolyn   | 46 | <i>Capito</i>         |
| 7  | Waxman             | 47 | Stephanie Tubbs Jones |
| 8  | Wasserman Schultz  | 48 | Gwen Moore            |
| 9  | Capps              | 49 | Ruppersberger         |
| 10 | Jackson-Lee        | 50 | <i>Kelly</i>          |
| 11 | Kucinich           | 51 | John Lewis            |
| 12 | Pallone            | 52 | Blumenauer            |
| 13 | Engel              | 53 | Honda                 |
| 14 | DeLauro            | 54 | Dennis Moore          |
| 15 | McCarthy, Carolyn  | 55 | Herseth               |
| 16 | Case               | 56 | <i>Brown-Waite</i>    |
| 17 | Kildee             | 57 | Betty McCollum        |
| 18 | Weiner             | 58 | Millender-McDonald    |
| 19 | Israel             | 59 | Danny K. Davis        |
| 20 | Owens              | 60 | DeGette               |
| 21 | Wynn               | 61 | <i>Gerlach</i>        |
| 22 | McDermott          | 62 | Cuellar               |
| 23 | Solis              | 63 | Hinchey               |
| 24 | Capuano            | 64 | Allen                 |
| 25 | <i>Kuhl</i>        | 65 | Eddie Bernice Johnson |
| 26 | McGovern           | 66 | McNulty               |
| 27 | Conyers            | 67 | Michaud               |
| 28 | Carson             | 68 | Neil Abercrombie      |
| 29 | Grijalva           | 69 | <i>Chris Shays</i>    |
| 30 | Van Hollen         | 70 | Rick Larsen           |
| 31 | <i>Green, Mark</i> | 71 | <i>Charles Bass</i>   |
| 32 | Schakowsky         | 72 | Barbara Lee           |
| 33 | Berman             | 73 | <i>Tim Murphy</i>     |
| 34 | Lofgren            | 74 | <i>Nancy Johnson</i>  |
| 35 | Cleaver            | 75 | <i>Jeb Bradley</i>    |
| 36 | Dicks              | 76 | <i>Frank LoBiondo</i> |
| 37 | Sanders            | 77 | Jim Matheson          |
| 38 | Holden             | 78 | <i>Simmons</i>        |
| 39 | <i>Bartlett</i>    |    |                       |
| 40 | <i>English</i>     |    |                       |